

State of Alaska FY2008 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety Village Public Safety Officer Program Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Village Public Safety Officer Program Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

The mission of the Village Public Safety Officer and Village Safety Aide program is to preserve public peace, protect life, and property in rural villages.

Core Services

Throughout rural Alaska, the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) is often the first responder to incidents, and/or the only person immediately available to provide a broad range of public safety services in their village. These include basic law enforcement, probation and parole, emergency medical services, search and rescue missions, and fire prevention activities.

Currently fifty-nine state funded VPSOs and twenty-one federally funded VPSOs represent an ongoing positive public safety presence in their villages and surrounding communities. VPSOs are employees of regional non-profit corporations but may receive direction from village leadership while receiving training and support from state troopers.

State troopers travel to VPSO villages in support of the VPSOs. During these visits, troopers provide training on specific subjects such as writing reports and search and rescue coordination. The close working relationship between VPSOs and troopers helps foster a unified law enforcement team for rural Alaska. The oversight helps to develop trust and confidence in the VPSOs so they can be more successful in their mission. It further helps establish the necessary support and backup by the troopers for the VPSOs during crisis situations within rural communities.

The services provided by the VPSO Contracts component include the funding of the grants to the non-profits who manage and implement the VPSO program. The services provided by the VPSO Support component include those specifically associated with the management of the VPSO grants.

The Alaska State Troopers' (AST) goals for the VPSO program include taking action to:

- Continue to provide first responders who can manage criminal investigations involving misdemeanors and some
 - felony property crimes;
- Continue to increase interdiction of illegal alcohol in areas where the residents have chosen to ban possession, sale, barter, or importation of alcohol; and
- Continue to provide for public safety in the areas of boating and fire safety and other non-criminal areas for rural
 - remote communities.

End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
A: Protect lives. <u>Target #1:</u> 10% reduction of deaths due to accidents and criminal acts in VPSO serviced villages. <u>Measure #1:</u> Homicide rate in VPSO serviced villages. <u>Target #2:</u> 10% reduction in recreational boating accidents with deaths in VPSO serviced villages. <u>Measure #2:</u> % change in fatality accidents.	A1: Improve response to alcohol-related crimes, and domestic violence (DV) incidents. <u>Target #1:</u> 10% reduction of accidental deaths in VPSO serviced villages compared to the previous 3-year average. <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in accidental deaths. A2: Enhance recreational boating safety patrols and education. <u>Target #1:</u> 10% increase in the number of inspections in VPSO serviced villages over the previous 2-year average. <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in number of inspections. <u>Target #2:</u> 10% increase in number of boating safety

	education presentations in VPSO serviced villages over the previous 2-year average. <u>Measure #2:</u> % change in number of boating safety education presentations.
End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
B: Protect property. <u>Target #1:</u> Reduce property crimes by 10% in VPSO serviced villages. <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in property crimes.	B1: Improve property crime investigations. <u>Target #1:</u> Increase solve rate of property crimes by 10% over the previous 3-year average in VPSO serviced villages. <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in property crimes solved by arrest.
End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
C: Preserve public peace. <u>Target #1:</u> 2% reduction in reported offenses compared to the previous 3-year average in VPSO serviced villages. <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in number of reported offenses.	C1: Community oriented policing and patrols for criminal activity. <u>Target #1:</u> 10% increase in the number of trooper visits to VPSO serviced villages logged in APSIN compared to the previous 3-year average. <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in number of visits.

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPSO training academy. • VPSO regional update training. • Driving Under the Influence (DUI) patrols. • Domestic violence and DUI training. • Report writing and investigation in-service. • Coordination with outside domestic violence-related agencies and support groups. • Domestic violence supervisory case review with district attorney coordination. • Provide search and rescue management training. • Water safety education. • Increased inspections. • Crime Stoppers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC) training. • Coordination of ABC investigations. • Provide boater safety public education. • Provide boater safety training to VPSOs and AST. • D.A.R.E. programs. • Alcohol Rewards Program. • Patrol high crime areas. • Investigator training. • Enhanced communications between jurisdictions. • Community Oriented Policing (COP) training. • Participation in village council meetings. |
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FY2008 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2008 Results Delivery Unit Budget: \$5,873,600	Personnel:	
	Full time	2
	Part time	0
	Total	2

Performance Measure Detail

A: Result - Protect lives.

Target #1: 10% reduction of deaths due to accidents and criminal acts in VPSO serviced villages.

Measure #1: Homicide rate in VPSO serviced villages.

Number of Homicides in VPSO Serviced Villages (calendar year)

Year	YTD Total
2001	6
2002	5 -16.67%
2003	3 -40.00%
2004	2 -33.33%
2005	3 +50.00%

Source: Alaska UCR Data

Analysis of results and challenges: To the extent that it can, the department will influence the homicide rate by deterrence (solving homicides committed in the department's jurisdiction) and by focusing on contributing factors, such as reducing the availability of illegal drugs and alcohol. Homicide rates are dependent on many factors, most of which are not controllable by the department.

Target #2: 10% reduction in recreational boating accidents with deaths in VPSO serviced villages.

Measure #2: % change in fatality accidents.

Number of Fatal Boating Accidents in VPSO Serviced Villages (calendar year)

Year	YTD Total
2001	0
2002	2 0%
2003	0 -100.00%
2004	1 0%
2005	2 +100.00%

Source: Alaska Public Safety Information Network – Case Activity data

Analysis of results and challenges: These figures are based on boating fatality accidents reported to the Alaska State Troopers.

A1: Strategy - Improve response to alcohol-related crimes, and domestic violence (DV) incidents.

Target #1: 10% reduction of accidental deaths in VPSO serviced villages compared to the previous 3-year average.

Measure #1: % change in accidental deaths.

Number of Accidental Deaths in VPSO Serviced Villages (calendar year)

Year	Accidental Deaths	3-Year Average	Percent Inc/Dec
2001	4		
2002	25		
2003	5	11	
2004	8	13	-27%
2005	13		0%

Source: Alaska Public Safety Information Network – Case Activity data

Analysis of results and challenges: The 13 accidental deaths reported in CY2005 represent no change in the number of accidental deaths in VPSO serviced villages from the previous 3-year average of 13 accidental deaths per year.

These figures are based on accidental deaths reported to the Alaska State Troopers. Accidental deaths include those resulting from motor vehicle accidents, aircraft accidents, boating accidents, fire (non-arson), falls, industrial accidents, firearm accidents, and other accidents.

A2: Strategy - Enhance recreational boating safety patrols and education.

Target #1: 10% increase in the number of inspections in VPSO serviced villages over the previous 2-year average.

Measure #1: % change in number of inspections.

Number of Recreational Boating Inspections in VPSO Serviced Villages (calendar year)

Year	Boating Inspections	2-Year Average	Percent Inc/Dec
2001	0		
2002	23		
2003	23	23	
2004	17	20	-26%
2005	5		-75%

Source: Alaska Public Safety Information Network – Case Activity data

Analysis of results and challenges: The 5 boating safety inspections in CY2005 represent a 75% decrease from the previous 2-year average of 20 boating safety inspections per year in VPSO serviced villages.

Target #2: 10% increase in number of boating safety education presentations in VPSO serviced villages over the previous 2-year average.

Measure #2: % change in number of boating safety education presentations.

Number of Boating Safety Education Presentations in VPSO Serviced Villages (calendar year)

Year	Boating Presentations	2-Year Average	Percent Inc/Dec
2001	0		
2002	0	0	
2003	0	0	0%
2004	7	3.5	100%
2005	0		-100%

Source: Alaska Public Safety Information Network – Officer Activity Reporting data

Analysis of results and challenges: The 0 hours of boating safety education presented in CY2005 in VPSO serviced villages represent a 100% decrease from the previous 2 year average.

B: Result - Protect property.

Target #1: Reduce property crimes by 10% in VPSO serviced villages.

Measure #1: % change in property crimes.

Number of Property Crimes in VPSO Serviced Villages (including arson) (calendar year)

Year	YTD Total
2001	415
2002	454 +9.40%
2003	598 +31.72%
2004	478 -20.07%
2005	345 -27.82%

Source: Alaska UCR Data.

Analysis of results and challenges: These figures are based on property crimes reported to the Alaska State Troopers. Property crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

B1: Strategy - Improve property crime investigations.

Target #1: Increase solve rate of property crimes by 10% over the previous 3-year average in VPSO serviced villages.

Measure #1: % change in property crimes solved by arrest.

Number of Property Crimes Solved by Arrest in VPSO Serviced Villages (calendar year)

Year	# of Crimes	Solve Rate	3-Year Avg Solve Rate	% Change
2001	415	36%		
2002	454	32%		
2003	598	35%	34%	
2004	478	47%	38%	+13%
2005	345	34%		-4%

Source: Alaska UCR data

Analysis of results and challenges: The 34% property crime solve rate in CY2005 represents an 4% decrease over the previous 3-year average of 38% for property crimes solved by arrest in VPSO serviced villages.

C: Result - Preserve public peace.

Target #1: 2% reduction in reported offenses compared to the previous 3-year average in VPSO serviced villages.

Measure #1: % change in number of reported offenses.

Number of Reported Offenses in VPSO Serviced Villages (including arson) (calendar year)

Year	Reported Offenses	3-Year Average	Percent Inc/Dec
2001	1,341		
2002	1,553		
2003	1,627	1,507	
2004	1,465	1,548	-3%
2005	1,150		-26%

Source: Alaska UCR data.

Analysis of results and challenges: The 1,150 reported offenses in CY2005 represent a 26% decrease compared to the CY2002-2004 average of 1,548 reported offenses. The 1,465 reported offenses in CY2004 represent a 3% decrease compared to the CY2001-2004 average of 1,507 reported offenses. These figures are based on offenses reported to the Alaska State Troopers. Reported offenses include the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting offenses of criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle

theft, and arson.

C1: Strategy - Community oriented policing and patrols for criminal activity.

Target #1: 10% increase in the number of trooper visits to VPSO serviced villages logged in APSIN compared to the previous 3-year average.

Measure #1: % change in number of visits.

Number of Trooper Visits to VPSO Serviced Villages (calendar year)

Year	Public Appearances	3-Year Average	Percent Inc/Dec
2001	214		
2002	385		
2003	751	450	
2004	528	555	17%
2005	229		-59%

Source: Alaska Public Safety Information Network – Case Activity data

Analysis of results and challenges: The decrease in overnight trooper visits in CY2005 is attributable to a variety of factors, including vacant VPSO and rural trooper positions, increasing numbers of court transports (troopers transporting prisoners to and from court), and prisoner transports between Nome and Kotzebue during the first several months of 2005 while the Kotzebue jail was closed.

Key RDU Challenges

VPSO turnover continues to be a challenge. There are many factors that cause high VPSO turnover. In fact, many of the same factors that affect Alaska State Trooper recruitment also influence VPSO recruitment. For VPSOs, one unique factor has been a historically low rate of pay. Toward that end, VPSO duties and pay were increased by adding supervision of parolees and probationers, and a reduction in administrative overhead costs was invested in VPSO salaries. As a result, the lowest paid VPSOs have seen pay increases of approximately 33 percent over the past two years.

The VPSO program has suffered from high turnover since inception. The expectations of a VPSO have changed over time and become more demanding. As a result, fewer village residents are willing to serve as a VPSO, which then requires the seeking of applicants elsewhere. It has proven difficult to recruit qualified applicants from urban areas to serve in villages.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2008

DPS has allocated federal grant funding for FY2007 to add twenty-one VPSO positions available to communities across Alaska. While the specific designation of these funds has not alleviated longstanding vacancy problems, it does clarify that the availability of funding has not been a factor influencing the number of vacancies in the program. AST will continue to seek qualified applicants who wish to serve rural Alaska as VPSOs.

Due to the difficulty in recruiting, hiring and retaining local village residents, and the fact that there are still many rural villages that have no public safety services, a Village Safety Aide (VSA) pilot program was instituted during FY2007. The VSA's role in the village does not include law enforcement, focusing instead on training and education in public safety issues relevant to village residents to include D.A.R.E education in the schools, suicide intervention, water, boating, ATV, and firearms education/safety, animal control, fire safety, and search and rescue coordination. By withdrawing the law enforcement duties and responsibilities from the VSAs, this eliminates the pressures of confronting and arresting family and relatives, yet provides the opportunity to provide crucial public safety services and enhance the quality of life in village communities. The VSA positions are funded through direct grants from the department to the villages employing the VSAs.

The AST Detachments component (Alaska State Troopers RDU) includes additional funding to improve recruitment results for both troopers and VPSOs. Increasing the number of VPSOs will provide improved levels of service to rural Alaskan communities.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2006

VPSO probation and parole services continue throughout the VPSO communities. The probation and patrol training is also being provided to new VPSOs attending VPSO basic training at the DPS Academy in Sitka. The VPSOs have developed a good working relationship with their probation and parole oversights and monitor offenders in their communities on a regular basis.

1,287 VPSO Visits

- 1,546 Village Police Officer (VPO) visits/contacts (VPOs are employed by some rural villages)
- 1,047 training hours conducted by oversight troopers
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In late FY2006, the VPSO wage scale was adjusted by the department, resulting in an approximate 10 percent pay increase to all VPSOs across the state, increasing the starting wage from \$15.05 per hour to \$16.50 per hour. This was a continuation of addressing the VPSO pay issue that was addressed in FY2006, when the VPSO wage scale was adjusted, resulting in an average pay increases of approximately \$1.14 per hour for most VPSO officers. In addition, introduced in FY2006 was a retention incentive bonus that, based on longevity, provided the VPSO an annual end of the year pay incentive ranging between \$500 dollars to \$3,000 dollars.

Contact Information

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**Village Public Safety Officer Program
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2006 Actuals				FY2007 Management Plan				FY2008 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
<u>Formula</u>												
<u>Expenditures</u>												
None.												
<u>Non-Formula</u>												
<u>Expenditures</u>												
VPSO Contracts	4,684.8	0.0	0.0	4,684.8	5,663.0	0.0	0.0	5,663.0	5,446.4	0.0	0.0	5,446.4
Support	221.2	0.0	121.4	342.6	258.7	0.0	132.8	391.5	272.0	0.0	155.2	427.2
Totals	4,906.0	0.0	121.4	5,027.4	5,921.7	0.0	132.8	6,054.5	5,718.4	0.0	155.2	5,873.6

**Village Public Safety Officer Program
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2007 Management Plan to FY2008 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2007 Management Plan	5,921.7	0.0	132.8	6,054.5
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-VPSO Contracts	-780.0	0.0	0.0	-780.0
-Support	1.0	0.0	3.5	4.5
Proposed budget increases:				
-VPSO Contracts	563.4	0.0	0.0	563.4
-Support	12.3	0.0	18.9	31.2
FY2008 Governor	5,718.4	0.0	155.2	5,873.6